

Application Serial No.: 10/615,025
Art Unit: 3712

Attorney Docket No. 7754.01
Confirmation No. 8771

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicants propose to amend Claims 24 and 30, and cancel Claims 20-23 and 32. Upon entry of the proposed amendment, Claims 24-31 and 33 will remain for further consideration.

In the Final Office Action (date mailed November 12, 2004) the Examiner rejected Claims 20, 24, 26, 27, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Horsfall et al. Claims 21, 22, 25, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horsfall et al. in view of Burnett et al. Claims 23, 28, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horsfall et al. in view of Foskey et al. The Examiner indicated that Claim 32 would be allowable over the prior art of record if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicant has canceled Claims 20-23, and has amended independent Claims 24 and 30 to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 32. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 24 and 30, as amended, and corresponding dependent Claims 24-29, 31 and 33 are allowable over the prior art applied of record.

Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed amendments made herein properly respond to the outstanding Final Rejection and represent a *bona fide* effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application. Care has been exercised to ensure that no new matter has been introduced and that no new issues have been raised that would require further consideration or search. Accordingly, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

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For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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RCL:DHT:wse